(a) whether due to non-performance of some States on drinking water supply for specific habitations, Government propose to extend the deadline earlier set for 2009 for total implementation of Safe Drinking Water Mission under Bharat Nirman Yojana;

(b) whether State authorities and implementing agencies have been found lacking in site selection as well as providing for proper water harvesting mechanisms for recharge of sources; and

(c) despite Government hiking the budget allocation to the ARWASP to Rs. 4050 crores whether the States are citing fund scarcity as reasons for non-implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government of India has been extending technical and scientific assistance like Hydro-geo-morphological maps, satellite imageries etc. to State Governments for ground water surveys and source investigation. State level Scientific Source finding Committees with representatives, *inter-alia*, from GOI Scientific organizations like Central Ground Water Board, National Remote Sensing Agency etc. ensure close monitoring of source investigation and site selection activities.

(c) Under Bharat Nirman, it is envisaged to cover the remaining uncovered habitations and address the problems of slippage of already covered habitations and water quality with adequate funds to meet the objectives in a period of four years (2005-06 to 2008-09).

Operation of NREGS

1629. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has been in operation in 150 districts of the country;

(b) if so, the names of these States and Districts;

(c) the number of beneficiaries in each of the districts and the expenditure incurred on the scheme as on 31st October, 2005; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that Rs. 4100,000/- crores are to be spent in coming 10 years under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 has been notified on 7.9.2005. Under the Act, Rural Employment Guarantee Schemes are to be formulated by the State Governments. The State Governments have been instructed to formulate Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme under the Act. The Act is likely to be implemented in 200 districts of the country in the first phase of its implementation. The process of identification of the districts has so far not been completed.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) The estimated expenditure for the first phase of implementation of the Act is of the order of Rs. 17,103 crores. After the Scheme is extended to cover the all districts of the country within a period of 5 years, the estimated expenditure would be about Rs. 49,600 crores per year.

Investment in rural infrastructure by private companies/MNCs

1630. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of investment by private companies/MNCs during the last three years in rural infrastructure;

(b) whether such investments in rural areas have been inadequate; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to encourage more private investment in rural infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The information/ data on investment by private companies/MNCs is not maintained in the Ministry of Rural Development. However, the Ministry is implementing rural infrastructure development programmes namely, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for rural roads, Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) for Rural Housing and Rural Drinking Water Supply. These are also the components of Bharat Nirman.